

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An information processing system comprising:
input means for receiving first media content information via a network from a seller information processing apparatus;
recording means for recording the first media content information;
output means for outputting the first media content information to a buyer information processing apparatus via the network;
wherein the input means is further operable to receive second information indicating the purchase of rights of predetermined media content from the buyer information processing apparatus via the network; and
settlement means for settling a purchase-and-sale contract concerning the rights of the predetermined media content based on the received second information; and
an escrow system management server for generating escrow processing information wherein the output means is further operable to transmit information about the purchase-and-sale contract for an escrow agent and transmitting the escrow processing information to [[an]] the escrow agent;
wherein the input means is further operable to receive a delivery status of the media content from a physical distribution agent and to receive a money transfer completion message from the escrow agent; and

wherein the recording means is further operable to record ~~information about the~~
delivery status of the media content and the money transfer completion message to the
~~buyer.~~

2. (Previously Presented) An information processing system according to
claim 1, wherein the settlement means is further operable to prepare and store a
document associated with the purchase-and-sale contract.

3. (Currently Amended) An information processing system according to claim 1,
wherein the input means is further operable to receive information indicating a condition
of the media content desired by the buyer from the buyer information processing
apparatus via the network;

wherein the information ~~process~~ processing system further comprises search
means for retrieving media content information satisfying the condition; and

wherein the output means is further operable to provide the retrieved media
content information to the buyer information processing apparatus.

4. (Previously Presented) An information processing system according to
claim 1, wherein the input means is further operable to receive information indicating the
seller of the media content from the seller information processing apparatus via the
network;

wherein the input means is further operable to receive information indicating the
buyer of the media content from the buyer information processing apparatus; and

wherein the recording means is further operable to record the third information indicating the seller of the media content and the information indicating the buyer of the media content.

5. (Previously Presented) An information processing system according to claim 1, wherein the rights of the media content to be sold and purchased between the seller and the buyer of the media content comprise at least part of: broadcasting rights, licensing rights, and copyright, or all the rights concerning the media content.

6. (Currently Amended) An information processing method comprising:
receiving first media content information via a network from a seller information processing apparatus;

recording the first media content information;

outputting the first media content information to a buyer information processing apparatus via the network;

receiving second information indicating the purchase of rights of predetermined media content from the buyer information processing apparatus via the network;

settling a purchase-and-sale contract concerning the rights of the predetermined media content based on the received second information;

generating escrow processing information about the purchase-and-sale contract for an escrow agent;

transmitting the escrow processing information about the purchase-and-sale contract to ~~[[an]]~~ the escrow agent;

receiving a delivery status of the media content from a physical distribution agent;
receiving a money transfer completion message from the escrow agent; and
recording information about delivery of the media content to the buyer.

7. (Currently Amended) A transaction method for settling a transaction of media content, comprising:

receiving media content information identifying media content to be sold by a seller, and media content rights information;

receiving request information from a buyer, the request information comprising a name of the media content the buyer wants to acquire and information about how the buyer wants to use the media content;

settling the transaction of the media content generated between the seller and the buyer by attaching rights indicated by media content rights information to the identified media content;

selling the identified media content and the attached rights to the seller;

generating escrow processing information about the transaction for an escrow agent;

transmitting the escrow processing information ~~about the purchase and sale contract~~ to ~~[[an]]~~ the escrow agent; and

recording information about delivery of the media content to the buyer.

8. (Previously Presented) A transaction method according to claim 7, wherein the media content rights information comprises any one of: broadcasting rights, licensing rights, and copyright of the content.

9. (Currently Amended) An information processing method for use in an information processing system which is connected via a network to at least one seller information processing apparatus and to at least one buyer information processing apparatus, the method comprising:

receiving first media content information from the seller information processing apparatus;

registering the first media content information;

receiving second media content information, specifying predetermined media content selected from the registered media content and the seller of the media content from, the buyer information processing apparatus;

generating a first web page which is viewable by the buyer information processing apparatus, and which displays a message input from the seller information processing apparatus specified by the second media content information, and which receives a message from the buyer to be sent to the seller;

generating a second web page which is viewable by the seller information processing apparatus specified by the second media content information, and which displays a message input from the buyer information processing apparatus outputting the second media content information, and which receives a message from the seller to be sent to the buyer;

maintaining a first site map indicating associations between web pages linked to the first web page, wherein the buyer information processing apparatus jumps to a different web page based on an operation performed on the first web page and the first site map;

controlling the posting of the first web page and the second web page; and
acquiring the messages input into the first web page and the second web page.

10. (Withdrawn) A transaction assisting method for assisting a transaction of content, comprising:

a first acquiring step of acquiring a request from a seller's site concerning the content possessed by a seller;

a second acquiring step of acquiring a request from a buyer's site concerning the content to be purchased by a buyer;

a transaction generation step of matching the request from the buyer acquired in said second acquiring step with the request from the seller acquired in said first acquiring step, and of generating the transaction of the matched content; and

a provision step of providing the seller and the buyer with a web site used for negotiating about a transaction condition of the matched content.

11. (Withdrawn) A transaction assisting method for assisting a transaction of content, comprising:

a registration step of registering the content possessed by a seller in a server;

a selection step of selecting the content to be purchased by a buyer from the content registered in said server in said registration step; and

a provision step of providing the seller and the buyer with a web site used for negotiating about a transaction condition of the content selected in said selection step.

12. (Withdrawn) A service providing method for providing services concerning a transaction of content, comprising:

a registration step of registering the content to be sold by a seller in a server in response to a request from a seller's site;

a selection step of selecting the content to be purchased by a buyer from the content registered in said server in response to a request from a buyer's site; and

a provision step of providing the seller and the buyer with a web site used for negotiating about a transaction condition of the content selected in said selection step.

13. (Withdrawn) An information processing method for use in an information processing system which is connected to via a network at least one first information processing apparatus possessed by a seller of program content and to at least one second information processing apparatus possessed by a buyer of the program content, said information processing method comprising:

a first generation step of generating a plurality of first web pages which are viewable by said second information processing apparatus, and which displays information concerning purchase and sale of the program content, and which receives first information to be sent to a predetermined seller;

a second generation step of generating a plurality of second web pages which are viewable by said first information processing apparatus, and which displays information concerning the purchase and sale of the program content, and which receives second information to be sent to a predetermined buyer;

a control step of controlling the posting of the plurality of first web pages generated in said first generation step and the plurality of second web pages generated in said second generation step on said network;

a first acquiring step of acquiring the first information input into the plurality of first web pages;

a second acquiring step of acquiring the second information input into the plurality of second web pages;

a third generation step of generating, based on the first information acquired in said first acquiring step, a third web page which is viewable by said first information processing apparatus of the predetermined seller, and which displays the buyer who has input the first information and a list of names of the program content corresponding to the first information; and

a fourth generation step of generating, based on the second information acquired in said second acquiring step, a fourth web page which is viewable by said second information processing apparatus of the predetermined buyer, and which displays the seller who has input the second information and a list of names of the program content corresponding to the second information.

14. (Withdrawn) An information processing method for use in an information processing system which is connected to via a network at least one first information processing apparatus possessed by a seller of program content and to at least one second information processing apparatus possessed by a buyer of the program content, said information processing method comprising:

an input/output control step of controlling an input and an output of information from and to said first information processing apparatus and said second information processing apparatus via said network;

a registration step of registering first information concerning the program content to be sold by the seller based on the information obtained by controlling the input from said first information processing apparatus in said input/output control step;

an inquiry provision step of providing an inquiry about the program content obtained by controlling the input from said second information processing apparatus in said input/output control step to said first information processing apparatus of the corresponding seller;

a negotiation assisting step of assisting negotiations for a purchase-and-sale contract of the program content based on the information obtained by controlling the input from said first information processing apparatus and said second information processing apparatus in said input/output controls step, and based on the first information registered in said registration step;

a quotation formation assisting step of assisting the formation of a quotation of the program content based on the information obtained by controlling the input from

said first information processing apparatus in said input/output control step, and based on the first information registered in said registration step; and

a purchase-order formation assisting step of assisting the formation of a purchase order of the program content based on the information obtained by controlling the input from said second information processing apparatus in said input/output control step, and based on the quotation formed by the assistance in said quotation formation assisting step.

15. (Withdrawn) An information processing method according to claim 14, further comprising:

a first recording control step of controlling the recording of the inquiry about the program content provided in said inquiry provision step;

a second recording control step of controlling the recording of information about the negotiations for the purchase-and-sale contract conducted by the assistance in said negotiation assisting step;

a third recording control step of controlling the recording of the quotation formed by the assistance in said quotation formation assisting step; and

a fourth recording control step of controlling the recording of the purchase order formed by the assistance in said purchase-order formation assisting step.